

which has increased with the years to such proportions that to-day it is said to be the most liberally endowed and most generously supported institution in the world for the education of Negroes.

Mr. Washington, speaking to the Negroes, insisted that they could do their best work in the South, and he added: "When

it comes to business, pure and simple, it is in the South that the Negro is given a man's chance in the commercial world, and in nothing is this Exposition more eloquent than in emphasizing this chance. Our greatest danger is that in the great leap from slavery to freedom we may overlook the fact that the masses of us are to live by the productions of our hands, and fail to keep in mind that we shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify common labor and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life; shall prosper in proportion as we learn to draw the line between the superficial and the substantial, the ornamental gewgaws of life and the useful. No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. It is at the bottom of life we must begin, and not at the top. Nor should we permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities."

An Enrollment of 1,621 Students

In presenting his annual report to the trustees in 1908, Principal Washington said:

"During the year which has just closed the number of students enrolled in all the departments of the institute proper has been 1,621 — 1,085 young men and 536 young women.



TUSKEGEE STUDENTS AT WORK ON THE INSTITUTE FARM

The average attendance has been about 1,400. This number does not include the 400 enrolled in the winter Short Course in Agriculture, nor the 144 children in the Training School. The regular students in the institute proper have come from 38 states and 21 foreign countries. Their average age has been eighteen and one-half, none being admitted under fourteen. At the close of the year 110 persons received diplomas and industrial or trade certificates. The number of students to finish the courses in proportion to the enrollment is small, and perhaps will always be so for the reason that in the degree that the economic element enters into trade education, the student is tempted to leave school before finishing the course, but experience shows that many of those who are doing the most useful work left the institution before finishing the full course."

The Extension Work of Tuskegee

The number of students reached directly in the class room does not, however, embrace all the work done by the institution. Tuskegee Institute carries on constantly a wide range of what might be designated as "extension work." This work has grown beyond the limits of the school grounds, and, of course, greatly adds to the actual expenditures for current expenses.